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### RECENT FIELD TRIPS

*Richardson Bay Wildlife Refuge*—A goodly crowd, approximately 50 members, gathered on February 4, at the north end of Richardson Bay Bridge, Marin County, for the annual visit to the National Audubon Richardson Bay Wildlife Refuge. The lagoons on either side of the highway offered an opportunity for close study of various species of ducks and egrets, as well as, six species of gulls and a solid clump of about 75 avocets. The caravan then proceeded around the lagoon of De Silva's Island, past the Baptist Seminary, and along the shore of Strawberry Point. Several stops were made, the most interesting being the last on the east shore for we were entertained by the frantic jostling of male Red-breasted Mergansers vying for the attention of a single dull female.

On the west shore of Strawberry Point we parked our cars and walked for an hour or so out to the point, where the trees seemed to be hung with Audubon Warblers and House Finches singing insistently. A Red-naped Yellow-bellied Sapsucker was spied in the live Oak and a Lawrence's Goldfinch paused momentarily on a nearby bush. On the mud spit out from the shore, we were all surprised to see the mud come alive. Countless numbers of Pipes, Dunlin, Least, and Western, were huddled on the mud waiting for the high tide to recede. Also, about 25 Harbor Seals were piled up on one slimy spot or peered bleary-eyed at us from the water.

We arrived at the Donald R. Dickey House at noon, where we were greeted warmly by the Audubon warden and his wife, Mr. and Mrs. John C. Larson, Jr., Picnic lunches were enjoyed on the terrace, supplemented by Mr. Larson's superb coffee. After lunch, Mr. Larson gave a brief talk on the history of the house and the establishment of the sanctuary.

From there, we drove to the shore of Belvedere Island, for closer views of the dense population of waterfowl on the refuge, an estimated 2,000 Western Grebe, 1,000 Surf and White-winged Scoters, nine species of ducks. When most of the crowd departed, the rest went to San Quentin road searching for shore birds. The leader went alone, to San Pedro Point chiefly to find the Clapper Rails at home, which they were. A total of 69 species were recorded.—ELIZABETH S. LENNON, *Leader & Historian*

*Field Trip to Lake Merced*—About 20 people, among them 5 sharp-eyed boys went on the Lake Merced trip, February 17. The weather was good, probably because of the storm that ended the night before, and more species (68) were seen than on the same trip last year. In addition to what is usually seen on the lake, we saw a Clark's Nutcracker on both sides of the lake— (We aren't sure if there were two birds or that the same one had flown across.)—Pygmy, as well as, Red-breasted and White-breasted Nuthatches; a Cliff Swallow, obviously, an early bird; White-throated Swifts— (Larry Curl heard them and we looked up)—a Yellow-shafted Flicker, a male with red head marking and the black mustache marks, but with orange-yellow wing linings; and a Spotted Sandpiper.

We, also, went down to the Cliff House to see the Fulmars. All in all, it was a fine day—AILEEN PIERSON, *Leader & Historian*

### IN MEMORIAM

In memory of

Arthur J. Bennett  
Rudy Herzog

Gift of

Mr. and Mrs. Horace C. Bennett  
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### NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following new members to our Society: from Albany, Mr. Martin Brech; from Angwin, Robert Hawson, Raymie Van Dolson; from Castro Valley, Mrs. E. Theile; from Fairfield, Mrs. Edith J. Gregory; from Hayward, Mrs. Esther P. Roossinck; from Menlo Park, Elene Ruth Owen; from Oakland, Mrs. Carrie L. Brown, Mrs. Robert Hitchcock; from Orinda, Dr. Donald M. Jonte, Mr. & Mrs. R. D. Malin; from Piedmont, Mrs. D. W. Murphey; from San Francisco, Mrs. Daniel Boyd, Mr. S. J. Madden.

—ROBERTA J. LONG, *Membership Chairman*

**NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY ANNOUNCEMENT:**—It was with regret that Mr. Carl W. Buchheister, president, notified the membership that the 1962 season of the Audubon Camp of California had been cancelled. The Sugar Bowl Lodge Corporation is making other plans for the property.

*The Conservation Resource Center*, 2426 Bancroft Way, Berkeley, Phone TH 8-4042, will be open on special Saturday hours, 11:00 a. m. to 3:00 p. m., during the interval March 10 - June 9. The Center invites you to come in and see their wide variety of conservation materials, books, gifts, charts.

### CANYON RANCH

Canyon Ranch is a very beautiful spot. It is coastal California unspoiled by man. Situated within the fog zone, it harbors a grove of Coast Redwoods, a Muir Woods in miniature. The lower hillsides are typical Redwood or Humid Transition Zone with Douglas Fir and Coast Live Oak. Above this area is a stand of impenetrably dense chaparral. Flowers characteristic of this zone of vegetation bloom under the trees and among



the chaparral. There are, it is true, a few species of weeds brought in by horses, goats and cattle which have grazed here, but these exotics do not spoil the illusion that this is virgin territory.

Canyon Ranch, according to its by-laws, is a sanctuary. This means that it is to be held in trust for the future, as an area for study and recreation. As chairman of an education committee in the process of being formed, I am dedicated to the objective of retaining the area in as much of a wild state as possible. Picking or removing any specimens will be discouraged (I almost hope—*forbidden*), because we want to preserve that balance of nature which now exists there.

Only deer trails now zig-zag up the sides of the canyons but some of these are to be developed into narrow foot-paths for our use. These Nature Trails will bear markers to inform those who travel them of what grows and lives on Canyon Ranch. We sincerely hope that those who walk these trails will not make shortcuts between the cut-backs. The steep trails so formed would, without a doubt, start erosion, which would in time denude the hillsides. Mr. MacLaren, the caretaker, says that the hillsides show little, if any, erosion to date in spite of the fact that they are steep, but if exposed to mistreatment they could soon develop runnels where rain water would wash them away.

The bird life on the lagoon within the forest and above the trees, where the herons and egrets roost and raise their young, is unique to this area. Needless to say, visitors are urged not to disturb the nesting birds and will, when the path is barred, not even visit the look-out spot from which the rookery can be observed.

The committee plans to establish, at some later date, a museum on the level part of the ranch. This will contain exhibits which will assist visitors in identifying the botanic and animal life found there. Furthermore, an area underneath the redwoods will provide picnic tables during the warm weather. Here visitors will be able to relax and enjoy their lunches and it is hoped that the trails will not be used for picnicking. Near the picnic spot are steep hillsides particularly vulnerable to erosion. As children may be tempted to run down these steep slopes, an open area behind the barn has been set aside where they may run and play games.

The fate of Canyon Ranch is in our hands. We can maintain it as a trust for the future or we can ruin it in a few years of carelessness and misuse. Let us all make ourselves guardians for the future.

—JANET NICKELSBURG, *Education Chairman*

#### APRIL MEETING

The 528th regular meeting of the Golden Gate Audubon Society will be held on Thursday, April 12, at 7:30 p. m. in the Rotary Natural Science Center on Lake Merritt in Oakland. Our speaker will be John Thomas Howell, Curator of Botany at the California Academy of Sciences. His illustrated lecture will be *Wild Flowers of Western National Parks*. The slides shown will be from the Charles Webber collection.

Members and guests are invited to a no-host dinner at 6 o'clock, at Lovely's Buffet, 336 Grand Avenue, at Perkins Street.

—MYRA B. BROWNE, *Program Chairman*

**LEADERSHIP TRAINING PROGRAM TRIP**

On Saturday, April 28, Mrs. Janet Nickelsburg will conduct a leadership trip to Joaquin Miller Park in Oakland. Parents and leaders interested in introducing and interpreting nature concepts to children are urged to attend this demonstration walk. Meet at Joaquin Miller Ranger Station and Information Center on Sanborn Road in the Park, at 11:00 a. m. To reach Park turn off of Warren Freeway at Lincoln Avenue and proceed east on Joaquin Miller Road to second Sanborn Road turnoff. Bring your lunch and plan to stay until 2:00 p. m.

**FIELD TRIPS FOR APRIL & MAY**

Sunday, April 1, a *Birding by Ear* study will be made on the Mc Donald Trail in Grass Valley Regional Park. (See March Gull) Meet at Mc Donald and Redwood Road, about  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile west of south entrance to Redwood Park, at 5:15 a. m. Leader, Harold G. Peterson, LO 8-7534.

Saturday & Sunday, April 7 & 8, overnight to Fremont Peak State Park and Moss Landing. Follow U. S. 101 south of San Jose through Gilroy to turnoff, State 156, and go to San Juan Bautista. Then take San Juan Canyon road (11 mi.) to park. There are 10 camp sites but no motels at park. Accomodations can, probably, be found in San Juan Bautista or Hollister. Meet at park headquarters, (El. 2750), at 10 a. m. and 1 p. m. for conducted walks. On Sunday, meet at the bridge over Elkhorn Slough, at 10 a. m. From park, return to U. S. 101 via State 156 and proceed south to Monterey Peninsula cutoff, Route 156, 9 miles south of Salinas. Turn west to Castroville, then north (right) on Route 1 for 3 miles. With a span in habitat, Mountain cover to salt marsh and ocean, a wide variety of species should be seen. Leader, Harold G. Peterson, LO 8-7534.

Tuesday, April 10 to Lake Temescal, for a local, short bird walk. Warblers, Juncos, Bushtits, Wrens, Towhees and Sparrows may be seen in the thick cover on the upper and lower trails of the west side of the lake. On the lake, a few ducks and grebes will be found. Meet at Willowbrook and Lakeside Picnic Area, at the south entrance to the park at 9:30 a. m. Take Bus 59 to Warren Blvd., and Broadway Terrace. Leader to be chosen at meeting place.

Saturday, April 14, one day flower trip to Napa and Lake Counties. After the good winter rains, the display of spring wild flowers should be Spectacular. Redbud, which puts on such a good show in early spring ought to be at its best. Many remember the wonderful flower trips to the Mother Lode and the Santa Lucie Mountains under the leadership of Gladys Smith. It is she who will lead the trip into the beautiful world of flowers. Meet at the Stone Bridge about one mile northeast of Napa on the Silverado Trail, At 9 a. m. Bring lunch and interested friends. Leader, Gladys Smith, Phone SK 1-5382.



Sunday, April 15, to Bay Farm Island. Shore birds in spring plumage should be abundant. Spring migration is usually at its height during this week. Meet at 9 a. m., at Lincoln Park, Santa Clara Ave. and High St., Alameda. Mecartney Drive and the sunken ship area will be explored in addition to new areas created by the new airport development. High tide at 9:15 a. m. Leader, Elsie Roemer, LA 2-0941.

Saturday, April 21, "Birding by Ear" Mt. Diablo. Meet at south entrance Mt. Diablo State Park at 6:30 a. m. To reach park drive to Danville and turn east. Those wishing to hear the dawn chorus meet the previous evening, April 20, and camp at Wild Cat camp site in the park. Park gates close at 7 p. m. Leader, Mrs. Eleanor A. Pugh, P. O. Box 258, Diablo, Calif.

Saturday, April 28, two separate trips will start from Livermore to visit the McCoy Ranch and the Patterson Pass area. The group wishing to go to Patterson Pass will leave Livermore at 5 a. m. and proceed immediately to the higher country to see the Black-chinned Sparrow, Lawrence's Goldfinch, Sage Sparrow, Lazuli Bunting and other species not so common in the lower areas. For more details contact Marie Mans, TH 8-5186, the leader.

The second group will leave Livermore at 9:30 a. m. to visit the McCoy Ranch, Arroyo Mocho, southwest of Livermore. Few places so close can equal the pastoral beauty of this foothill canyon in the springtime. Orioles, Phainopepla, Western Kingbirds, Yellow-billed Magpie and Lewis' Woodpecker are usually seen. Leader, Erlene Hevel, PR 5-6498.

Sunday, April 29, the McCoy Ranch trip will be duplicated. Leader, Marjory Reu, SK 1-2591. No trip to Patterson Pass on this day.

All groups meet one block beyond the flagpole on Livermore Ave. Allow one hour driving time from Oakland.

On Sunday, May 6, to Jack London Ranch, Glen Ellen, Sonoma Co. This is the home of Mrs. Marianne Shepard. Here the wooded slopes are covered with oaks, shrubs and conifers, an ideal habitat for birds. At this season the rolling meadows will be covered with wildflowers. Meet at 9 a. m., at Glen Ellen post office. It is about one mile from Highway 12, seven miles from Sonoma and 15 miles from Santa Rosa. Leaders, Marianne and Susan Shepard, Box 141, Glen Ellen.

On Sunday, May 20, to the Farallon Islands, on Privateer II. Departure from Berkeley Harbor, at 5:30 a. m. with a later pickup of passengers in San Francisco. Complete information as to time, clothing, etc. will be sent to all who reserve space. Fare is \$7.00 per person. Make all checks payable to *Golden Gate Audubon Society* and send to Field Trips Chairman, Harold G. Peterson, 3548-65th Ave., Oakland 5, with name, address and PHONE NUMBER. Names will be placed on list in order received.

*Other May Field Trips*—Sat. & Sun., May 12 & 13, overnight to Sacramento Valley. Tuesday, May 15, Golden Gate Park. Sat. & Sun., May 26 & 27, overnight to Yosemite National Park.

Two meetings to develop new ideas for field trips and to discuss proposed changes in the next Christmas bird counts will be held at the Rotary Science Center, Lakeside Park, Oakland, at 7:30 p. m., Thursday, April 19 and at Erlene Hevel's apartment, 1801 California Street, San Francisco, at 8 p. m., on Thursday, April 26.

—HAROLD G. PETERSON, Field Trips Chairman

## GOLDEN GATE AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC.

Established January 25, 1917

A Branch of the National Audubon Society since 1948

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Claims for missing numbers of THE GULL should be sent to the Assistant Editor. Changes of address should be sent to the Membership Chairman.

Monthly meetings second Thursday, 7:30 p.m. Joint Membership, Local and National, \$6.50 per year, includes AUDUBON MAGAZINE and THE GULL. Subscription to THE GULL separately \$1.50 per year.

Visit the Conservation Center of the NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY  
2426 Bancroft Way, Berkeley 4, California TH 8-4042

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